

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02

INT-08 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 101443Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2556

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBAS*Y COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5416

US NATO PASS UNDER SECRETARY DONALDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJECT: GON'S GASOLINE RATIONING AND ENERGY ECONOMY

REF: THE HAGUE 5273

1. SUMMARY: GON HAS ANNOUNCED RATION OF 15 LITERS
GASOLINE PER WEEK. FOR ALL PRIVATE CARS, NO MATTER WHAT SIZE.
EXTRA RATION WILL BE PERMITTED THOSE EARNING LIVING FROM
USE OF CAR (FOR EXAMPLE, SALESMEN) BUT THERE WILL BE NO
EXTRA RATION FOR COMMUTERS. GON WILL ALLOW INDIVIDUAL
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SALE OF RATION COUPONS TO AVOID BLACK MARKET. GON

DISCUSSING COORDINATION OF RATIONING WITH FRG AND BELGIUM. GON HAS PROPOSED VARIETY OF STEPS TO SAVE ENERGY RANGING FROM CUTBACKS ON COMMERCIAL ILLUMINATION TO STAGGERED HOURS FOR SCHOOLS, FACTORIES AND OFFICES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL ANNOUNCED DEC 7 GON HAD DECIDED ON 15 LITER PER WEEK GAS RATION FOR PRIVATE CARS, IRRESPECTIVE OF CAR SIZE. THERE WILL BE EXTRA RATION FOR THOSE USING CAR TO EARN LIVING (SALESMEN, ETC.) BUT NO SPECIAL RATION FOR COMMUTERS. GOVERNMENT ADVISES PEOPLE DEPENDENT UPON CARS FOR TRANSPORTATION TO JOB TO MAKE POOL ARRANGEMENTS OR USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT OR BICYCLE. RATION CARDS BEING ISSUED BY DUTCH POST OFFICES THIS WEEK. TO AVOID BLACK MARKET THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ALLOW SALE OF COUPONS. RULES GOVERNING SUCH SALE BEING FORMULATED, BUT IT IS ANTICIPATED ANYONE WHO HAS SURPLUS COUPONS WILL BE ABLE TO SELL THESE AT POST OFFICES FOR SET PRICE. COUPONS WILL BE VALID FOR SIX MONTHS. GON ESTIMATES RATIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF 100 KILOMETER SPEED LIMIT WOULD RESULT IN 30 PERCENT REDUCTION IN GASOLINE USE BY PRIVATE VEHICLES.

3. TOTAL PACKET OF RATIONING MEASURES IS STILL IN PREPARATION. TRANSPORTATION MINISTER WESTERTEP WILL ANNOUNCE FURTHER REGULATIONS THIS WEEK. THERE WILL BE PROVISIONS FOR EXTRA RATION AND ALSO FOR 200,000 TRUCKS USING GASOLINE. FOR THE MOMENT LPG AND DIESEL OIL EXCLUDED FROM RATIONING. ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR DIESEL OIL WILL BE NECESSARY, HOWEVER, BECAUSE PRICES IN FRG ARE TWICE THOSE IN NETHERLANDS. BROMFIETSEN (MOTORBIKES) WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO RATIONING. GON HOLDING TALKS WITH FRG AND BELGIUM ABOUT COORDINATION OF RATIONING.

4. IN ADDITION TO GAS RATIONING, GON HAS ANNOUNCED ADDITIONAL STEPS TO COPE WITH ENERGY SHORTAGE. THESE ARE:

(A) CUTBACK IN ILLUMINATION FOR SHOP WINDOWS, ADVERTISING, HOLIDAY LIGHTS, ETC.;

(B) 40 PERCENT REDUCTION IN LIGHTS ON ALL STATE ROADS; MUNICIPALITIES HAVE BEEN REQUESTED REDUCE MUNICIPAL UNCLASSIFIED

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LIGHTING BY SAME PERCENTAGE;

(C) SCHOOLS (EXCEPT PRIMARY SCHOOLS) WILL NOT BEGIN BEFORE 9 OR FINISH AFTER 4:00;

(D) GOVERNMENT IS DISCUSSING WITH LABOR FOUNDATION (UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS) INTRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT HOURS SO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WILL NOT BE OVERLOADED AT PEAK PERIODS.

(E) GOVERNMENT OFFICES WILL CLOSE ON DEC 24 THRU DEC 31
SO THERE CAN BE ENTIRE WEEK HOLIDAY.

(F) KLM WILL REDUCE CERTAIN FLIGHTS IN JANUARY.
FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WILL BE ONE RETURN FLIGHT TO NEW YORK PER DAY
INSTEAD OF TWO NOW SCHEDULED.
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